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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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1.   A method for providing products, the method
comprising:
        receiving, at an automatic product/service
dispensing machine in a micronetwork of proximally
10   located diverse automatic product/service dispensing
machines, a request for an item;
        responsive to a determination that the item is
unavailable at a current automatic product/service
dispensing machine, providing a user with an alternative
15   redemption product.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
alternative redemption product is a redemption coupon.

20   3.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the
redemption coupon may be redeemed at a store.

4.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the
redemption coupon is an electronic redemption coupon.

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5.   The method as recited in claim 2, further
comprising:
        providing redirection information to the user
regarding a location at which the redemption coupon may
30   be redeemed for an item.

6.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the

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alternative redemption product is a monetary credit to a smart card.

7.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the alternative redemption product is an item different from the requested item.

8.   The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the item different from the requested item is offered at a discount.

9.   A method for providing products, the method comprising:
        detecting the presence of a portable electronic data processing system; and
        pushing information about products available in a micronetwork of automated product dispensing machines.

10.   The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the information comprises at least one of product location information, product pricing information, and product availability information.

11.   The method as recited in claim 9, wherein bluetooth is used to for detecting and pushing.

12.   A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for providing products, the computer program product comprising:
        first instructions for receiving, at an automatic product/service dispensing machine in a micronetwork of proximally located diverse automatic product/service

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dispensing machines, a request for an item;

second instructions, responsive to a determination that the item is unavailable at a current automatic product/service dispensing machine, for providing a user with an alternative redemption product.

13.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the alternative redemption product is a redemption coupon.

14.   The computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein the redemption coupon may be redeemed at a store.

15.   The computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein the redemption coupon is an electronic redemption coupon.

16.   The computer program product as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

third instructions for providing redirection information to the user regarding a location at which the redemption coupon may be redeemed for an item.

17.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the alternative redemption product is a monetary credit to a smart card.

18.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the alternative redemption product is an item different from the requested item.

19.   The computer program product as recited in claim 18,

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wherein the item different from the requested item is offered at a discount.

20. A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for providing products, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for detecting the presence of a portable electronic data processing system; and

second instructions for pushing information about products available in a micronetwork of automated product dispensing machines.

21. The computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the information comprises at least one of product location information, product pricing information, and product availability information.

22. The computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein bluetooth is used to for detecting and pushing.

23. A system for providing products, the system comprising:

means for receiving, at an automatic product/service dispensing machine in a micronetwork of proximally located diverse automatic product/service dispensing machines, a request for an item;

means, responsive to a determination that the item is unavailable at a current automatic product/service dispensing machine, for providing a user with an alternative redemption product.

24. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the

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alternative redemption product is a redemption coupon.

25. The system as recited in claim 24, wherein the redemption coupon may be redeemed at a store.

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26. The system as recited in claim 24, wherein the redemption coupon is an electronic redemption coupon.

27. The system as recited in claim 24 further
10 comprising:
　　means for providing redirection information to the user regarding a location at which the redemption coupon may be redeemed for an item.

15 28　The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the alternative redemption product is a monetary credit to a smart card.

29. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the
20 alternative redemption product is an item different from the requested item.

30. The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the item different from the requested item is offered at a
25 discount.

31. A system for providing products, the system comprising:
　　means for detecting the presence of a portable
30 electronic data processing system; and
　　means for pushing information about products available in a micronetwork of automated product

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dispensing machines.

32.   The system as recited in claim 31, wherein the information comprises at least one of product location
5   information, product pricing information, and product availability information.

33.   The system as recited in claim 31, wherein bluetooth is used to for detecting and pushing.
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